



MHPB

SHETLAND DIVISION

OUTLINE OF PLAY – 2012

A. Philosophy

- a. The Shetland Division is a non-competitive division that emphasizes the following:
 - i. Teaching the basic rules, fundamental skills, and safety of baseball.
 - ii. We strongly encourage parent participation.
 - iii. Playing baseball in an environment of friendly competition with little emphasis on winning
 1. no scorekeeping
 2. no standings
 3. no playoffs
 - iv. Having fun!

B. Organization

- a. The Shetland Division will consist of as many teams as required to support registration.
- b. Each team will carry a maximum of 12 players.

C. Team Selection Process

- a. Teams will be selected by the DR's using the division database listing from the official registration.
- b. Consideration will be given to requests for team assignment based upon need and geographical location.

D. Schedule

- a. The regular season will consist of 10 games for each team.
- b. Play will consist of a 30 minute practice followed by a game that lasts three 3 or 4 full innings of play, or 60 minutes, whichever comes first. The intent is to provide approximately a 1.5 hours of play.
 - i. Game start time will be 30 minutes after the schedule arrival time.
- c. Practices during the season are not mandatory for teams or players. Practice fields and times for Monday through Friday may be requested of the Division Representatives dependent upon field availability.
- d. Makeup games will be considered. The Division Representative and the Player Agent will determine feasibility and scheduling.

E. Equipment

- a. Youth baseball and tee ball bats are permitted for use, however, MHPB strongly recommends that parents purchase a youth baseball bat instead of a tee ball bat. (This is because tee ball bats are only approved for use when the player is hitting off of a tee. Because most players will advance to hitting a coach-pitched baseball, however, MHPB recommends that parents invest in a youth baseball bat which can be used for multiple seasons of play).
 - i. Newly purchased youth baseball bats must include the "BPF 1.15" label on the barrel of the bat.
 - ii. To accommodate tee ball hitters, MHPB will furnish each team with tee ball bats that can be shared among all players.
- b. Baseballs used in Shetland Division must be RIF type or soft center balls. Example, Rawlings official training ball.

F. Shetland Division Specific Rules

- a. Play
 - i. An inning will consist of each team batting through their entire order regardless of the number of outs. Batting orders are to switch so that everyone has a chance to bat in all positions in the lineup.
- b. Pitching
 - i. It is the manager's option as to which batters will receive pitched balls or hit off the tee.
 - ii. Coach pitching may be done from any distance that instills confidence in the batter and encourages the batter to hit the pitched ball with the goal of every hitter hitting a ball pitched from the pitching rubber
 - iii. Pitching will be done by the batting team's manager, coach, or another adult designated by the manager or coach.
 - iv. Pitched balls must be overhand, underhand is not allowed. It is encouraged that the adult pitching be down on one knee in order to be at the same level as the batter.
 - v. Adult pitchers must attempt to get out of the way of a ball hit to the pitcher's mound area to allow players to field the ball.
- c. Batting
 - i. The batter and the on-deck batter are the only players allowed to have a bat in their hands. The on-deck batter is to warm up in the designated on-deck area. An adult should supervise the on-deck area at all times.
 - ii. The batter must not throw the bat or let it "slip" from his/her hands. Throw's or slips will result in warnings.
 - iii. Players will receive five (5) swings of the bat if pitched to. If the batter fails to hit the ball in fair territory, he/she must use the tee.
 - iv. A foul ball on the fifth pitch, the batter will receive another pitch.
 - v. If the batter uses the tee, they will receive two (2) swings off the tee. If the batter fails to hit in 2 swings, the coach will assist the player in hitting the ball.
 - vi. A ball hit off the tee must travel six (6) feet to be considered in-play. Bunting is not allowed. We will strive to scribe a chalk line to identify the 6-foot line.
- d. Base Running
 - i. The runner will be awarded the base to which they are advancing. Even if the runner is out he/she will remain at that base.
 - ii. Runners will advance 1 base at a time per batted ball.
 - iii. Automatic Home Run for the last batter – It is encouraged that batting orders switch to allow a different player to be the last batter.
- e. Fielding
 - i. The entire team of players will be allowed on the field, defensively, at the same time.
 - ii. Fielders' positions are to be changed each inning to provide as much variety as possible.
 1. No player is to play the same defensive position for more than one consecutive inning.
 - iii. All extra players will be distributed through the outfield.
 - iv. The defensive pitcher must stay within the pitcher circle until the ball contacts the bat.
 - v. Infielders cannot charge home plate.
 - vi. To stop a play after the ball has been hit, the defensive team must return the ball to the player pitcher, or close to that individual, since throws and catches are not very accurate at this level.
 - vii. Outs can be recorded, but base runners will remain at the base.

G. DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES

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